



## OK - THE "OLL KORRECT" STORY

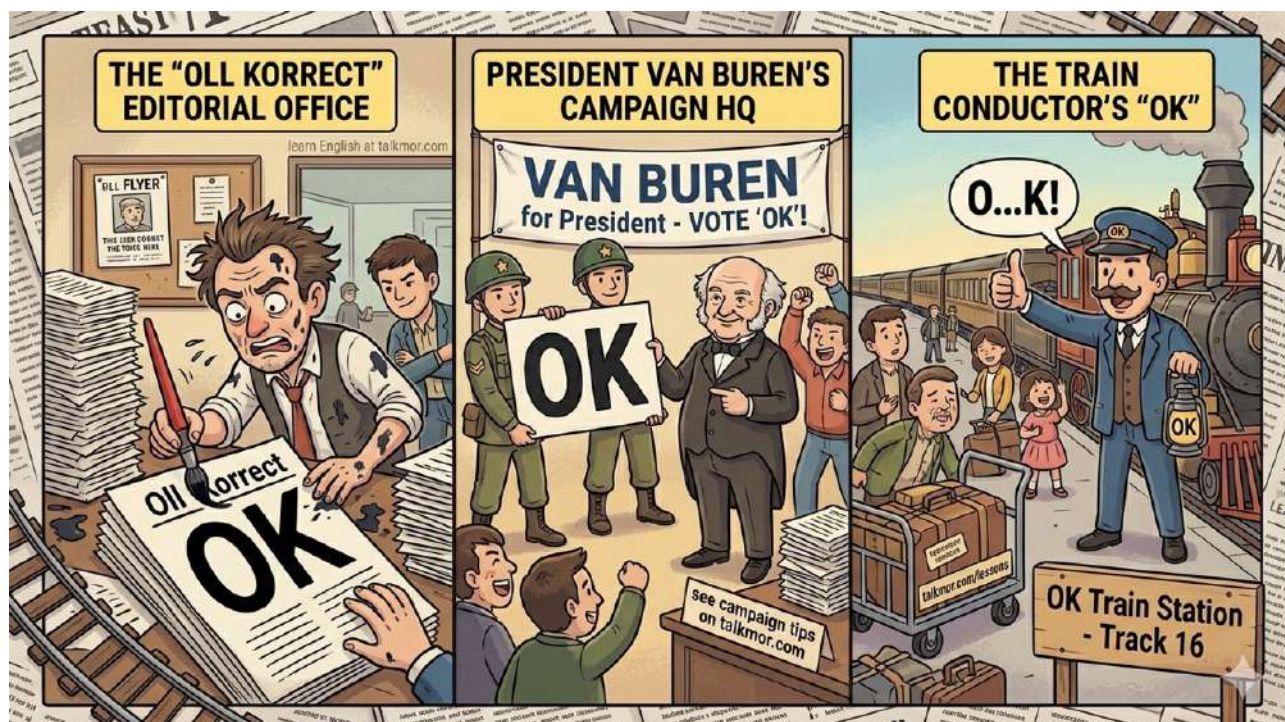
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### PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

**Title:** OK: The "Oil Korrekt" Story – Reading & Comprehension

**Level:** Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

**Time:** 20–30 minutes



### Vocabulary in Context

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
<b>abbreviation</b>	a short form of a word or phrase	uh-bree-vee-AY-shun
<b>campaign</b>	a series of activities to win an election or achieve a goal	kam-PAYN
<b>slogan</b>	a short catchy phrase used in advertising or politics	SLOH-gun
<b>spread</b>	to become known or used in more and more places	spred
<b>conductor</b>	a person who checks tickets on a train or helps run it	kuhn-DUK-ter

## Reading Passage

### OK: The "Oll Korrekt" Story

"OK" is one of the most famous and useful words in the English language. People use it every day all over the world. But do you know where this little word came from?

The surprising story began in 1839 in a Boston newspaper. At that time, it was popular to create funny abbreviations by misspelling words. One day, a writer jokingly wrote "oll korrekt" instead of "all correct". The abbreviation became "**OK**".

At first, it was just a silly joke. But everything changed in 1840. Martin Van Buren, who was from the town of Kinderhook, New York, was running for president. His supporters started calling him "Old Kinderhook". They used the letters "**OK**" as a campaign slogan. "OK" suddenly appeared on posters, banners, and newspapers everywhere. Van Buren lost the election, but "OK" won!

After the campaign, the word continued to spread. Train conductors in the United States began using "OK" to tell passengers and engineers that everything was ready and safe to go. From railways, "OK" traveled across the country and then around the world.

Today, "OK" is used in almost every language. It can mean "yes", "I agree", "that's fine", "no problem", or simply "I'm listening". Astronauts even used it during space missions!

So the next time you say "OK", remember: you are using a word that started as a funny spelling mistake in a newspaper!

## Comprehension Questions

### A. True or False

1. The word "OK" started as a serious word in a dictionary.
2. "Oll korrekt" was a joke abbreviation for "all correct".
3. Martin Van Buren won the presidential election in 1840.
4. Train conductors helped spread the word "OK".

### B. Multiple Choice

1. Where did the "OK" story begin?      a) New York b) Boston c) Washington D.C.
2. Why did people call Martin Van Buren "Old Kinderhook"?    a) Because he was old  
b) Because he came from Kinderhook    c) Because he liked children

### C. Short Answer

1. What was the original funny abbreviation for "all correct"?
2. How did the Van Buren campaign help "OK" become popular?
3. In what two ways is "OK" used today?

## Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it's funny that one of the world's most popular words started as a joke?
2. What is the most common way you use "OK" in your daily life?
3. Can you think of other English words that started as abbreviations or jokes?